



Fatality #25 - December 15, 2006
Falling Rock - Alaska - Lead/Zinc Ore
Teck Cominco Alaska Inc. - Red Dog

METAL/NONMETAL MINE FATALITY - On December 15, 2006, a 51 year-old geologist, with 11 years experience was fatally injured at a lead/zinc ore operation. The victim was examining a muck pile face in the pit when a frozen piece of material, measuring 4 feet by 5 feet, fell approximately 22 feet and struck him.



Best Practices

- Examine work areas to identify all possible hazards. Ensure that all hazards are eliminated so the task can be safely performed.
- Establish procedures that ensure miners always work from safe locations.
- Train miners in safe work procedures and hazard recognition, specifically to observe unsafe ground conditions while working near highwalls.
- If material needs examined, use a loader to remove it from the pile.

This is the 25th fatality reported in calendar year 2006 in the metal and nonmetal mining industries. As of this date in 2005, there were 35 fatalities reported in these industries. This is the 5th Falling Material fatality in 2006. There were 5 Falling Material fatalities in the same period in 2005.